

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 2-7 and 9 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: prior art of record fails to teach, or render obvious, alone or in combination, a packet flow control method for a switching node of a data transfer network, said method comprising: actively managing space allocations in a central queue for a plurality of ports of a switching node of a data transfer network, wherein the actively managing is based on an amount of currently unused space in the central queue; and wherein the actively managing includes determining, based on an amount of currently-vacant storage space in a storage device of a port of the plurality of ports, whether the port accepts an offered space for use by the port to buffer received data packets, the offered space comprising a quantity of the amount of currently unused space in the central queue where in technique of managing space allocations in the central queue includes computing a total current credit for the port, in which the total current credit is clear as a difference between a space allocation in the central queue for the port and an the space allocation currently used to buffer the acknowledged data packets. After comparing the total credit of empty port storage space if empty port storage space is greater than the total current credit, accepting the offered space otherwise refusing the offered space in combination with all other limitation as recited in independent claim 2.

Prior art of record also fails to teach, or render obvious, alone or in combination, a packet flow control method for a switching node of a data transfer network, said method comprising: actively managing space allocations in a central queue for a plurality of ports of a switching node of a data transfer network, wherein the actively managing is based on an amount of currently unused space in the central queue wherein the technique of managing space allocations in the central queue includes multiplying the amount of empty storage space in the storage device of the port by a scaling factor, in which the scaling factor accounts for a difference between a first bandwidth at an input of the port and a second bandwidth between the port and the central queue in combination with all other limitation as directly recited in independent claim 3.

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Prior art of record also fails to teach, or render obvious, alone or in combination, a packet flow control method for a switching node of a data transfer network, said method comprising: actively managing space allocations in a central queue for a plurality of ports of a switching node of a data transfer network, wherein the actively managing is based on an amount of currently unused space in the central queue wherein the returned space includes vacated allocated space in the central queue that is currently assigned to a virtual lane of the port; and said actively managing further comprises deducting, from a current space debt of the virtual lane, an amount representing the vacated allocated space included in the returned space, wherein the current space debt of the virtual lane comprises an amount of space by which a space

allocation in the central queue allotted to the virtual lane exceeds a target allocation in combination with all other limitation as recited in independent claim 9.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ramtin Kangarloo whose telephone number is (571) 270-3452. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Benny Tieu can be reached on (571) 272-7490. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Ramtin Kangarloo
Examiner Art Unit 4177
November 20, 2007

/Benny Q Tieu/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 4177